

DDR-211-62


28 May 1962

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I am sorry that so much time has slipped away since I received your letter of May 5. I had not known whether it was practical or desirable to write to you in Geneva and also knew that you would not be home until mid June, so I kept letting other matters take precedence.

I have talked with Dr. Scoville concerning the frequency allocation matter and as best I can determine he had no recollection of any specific incident but was, I think, just reflecting something of the general nature of spectrum crowdedness and the continuing desires by both industry and Government for more and more frequency allocations. There are and have been for a long time frequent struggles over the availability of certain frequencies for certain uses at certain times and places. When there does develop a real bind requiring command authority as can be the case in some of the rapidly developing space research activities, there is no very convenient method of resolving such under our system.

I will be very pleased to meet with you and discuss what I know about this at your convenience and arrange for meetings with other people who know more than I do. Since the 1959 conference in Geneva I haven't had any very direct contact, though occasionally  who was with me in Geneva, and I will meet with people in the allocations business to discuss various problems and preparations.

At the risk of repeating things already well known to you, I'll make the following general background comments and refer you to several publications which if not already in your possession, you might find useful.

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As you are doubtless aware, radio frequency management in the United States is not centralized under a single authority. Under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authority to assign radio frequencies to non-Federal government users is vested in the Federal Communications Commission and, collaterally, authority to assign radio frequencies to Federal government users is vested in the President of the United States. In practice, this presidential function is performed by the Inter-department Radio Advisory Committee (to the President), the IRAC. The members of IRAC consists of representatives of the user agencies; its Executive Secretariat is furnished by the Office of Emergency Planning of the Office of the President. The Department of State has prime responsibility for international negotiations for telecommunications - as for other substantive areas.

This absence of a centralized authority in the U. S. for radio spectrum (telecommunications) management has been a subject of concern for some years - engendering several major studies of the subject. Among the first of these studies was "Telecommunications-- A Program for Progress" prepared by the President's Communications Policy Board in 1951 (LC Card 51-60527). Dr. Irvin Stewart, who chaired this Board, has recently been appointed Director of Telecommunications Policy Management, -- within the Office of Emergency Planning, I believe.

A more recent study is by M. C. Davis of the Rand Corp. (RM-2337), dated 1 April 1959, "Management of the Radio Spectrum" SECRET. Although this report was written for a different purpose from that of the President's Communications Policy Board, it summarizes the current situation fairly well.

There are several other unpublished studies prepared by members of the frequency management fraternity which have resulted from academic work done collaterally with their official jobs. These include a doctoral thesis by Donald R. MacQuivey and an Army Industrial School paper by C. W. Loeber. Both Dr. MacQuivey and Mr. Loeber are currently with the Telecommunications Division of the Department of State.

Joint Technical Advisory Committee of the Institute of Radio Engineers--Radio Television Manufacturers Association, "Radio Spectrum Conservation", published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1952.

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Donald R. MacQuivey, (doctorate dissertation), "Frequency Assignment Administrative Control".

86th Congress, 2nd Session, Report dated 19 March 1960, "Radio Frequency Control in Space Telecommunications" prepared for the use of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, United States Senate by Edward Wenk, Jr., Senior Specialist in Science and Technology, Legislative Reference Service, of the Library of Congress. (GPO, no price listed.)

(Contains a comprehensive flow-chart of the radio frequency management complex of the U. S. Government.)

86th Congress, 2nd Session, Report dated 4 December 1960, "Policy Planning for Space Telecommunications", prepared for the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, United States Senate. (55¢ GPO)

87th Congress, 2nd Session, Report dated 25 February 1962, "Communication Satellites: Technical, Economic and International Developments", (Staff report prepared for the use of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, U. S. Senate). (\$1.00 GPO)

Very truly yours,

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